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SPOOR AND FISHER

FORM P.7
(To be lodged in duplicate)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PATENTS ACT, 1978

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

(Section 30(1) - Regulation 28)

OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO.

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LOGGING DATE

22	09.09.98
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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

51	E21C
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FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

71	MARIO PIETROMARTIRE
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FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)

72	MARIO PIETROMARTIRE
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TITLE OF INVENTION

54	MINING MACHINE
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CLAIMS:

1. A mining machine comprising:

at least two sections which are movable relative to one another,

push-pull drive means for moving the at least two sections relative to one another so as to allow the machine to traverse a mining face in a forward direction;

one or more rotary cutting heads at a foremost section of the machine for excavating rock from the mining face as the machine traverses the face, the or each rotary cutting head being rotatable about a generally upright axis when the machine is positioned on a substantially horizontal surface; and

muck removal means arranged to discharge rock, excavated from the face by the or each cutting head, in a sideways direction relative to the forward direction.

2. A mining machine according to claim 1, wherein the one or more rotary cutting heads comprise counter-rotatable cutting heads arranged side by side.

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3. A mining machine according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the muck removal means is a conveyor arranged to collect and discharge, in a sideways direction, material excavated from the mining face by the cutting heads.
4. A mining machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mining machine includes a main body, a front cutter assembly located forwardly of the main body, and a rear positioning assembly located rearwardly of the main body.
5. A mining machine according to claim 4, wherein the front cutter assembly and the rear positioning assembly are connected to one another by means of a beam which passes slidably through the main body.
6. A mining machine according to either claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the main body and the rear positioning assembly carry jacks operable to lock these components in position.
7. A mining machine according to claim 6, wherein the machine includes cylinder means for moving the main body relative to the rear positioning assembly, the front cutter assembly and the beam when the jacks of the rear positioning assembly are operative, and for moving the rear positioning assembly, the front cutter assembly and the beam relative to the main body when the jacks of the main body are operative.

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8. A mining machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the machine includes steering means.
9. A mining machine according to claim 8, wherein the steering means includes at least one extendable ram.
10. A mining machine substantially as herein described and illustrated.

DATED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1998



SPOOR AND FISHER
APPLICANTS PATENT ATTORNEYS